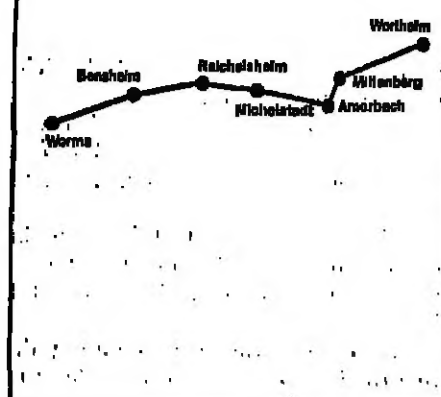


Routes to tour in Germany

The Nibelungen Route



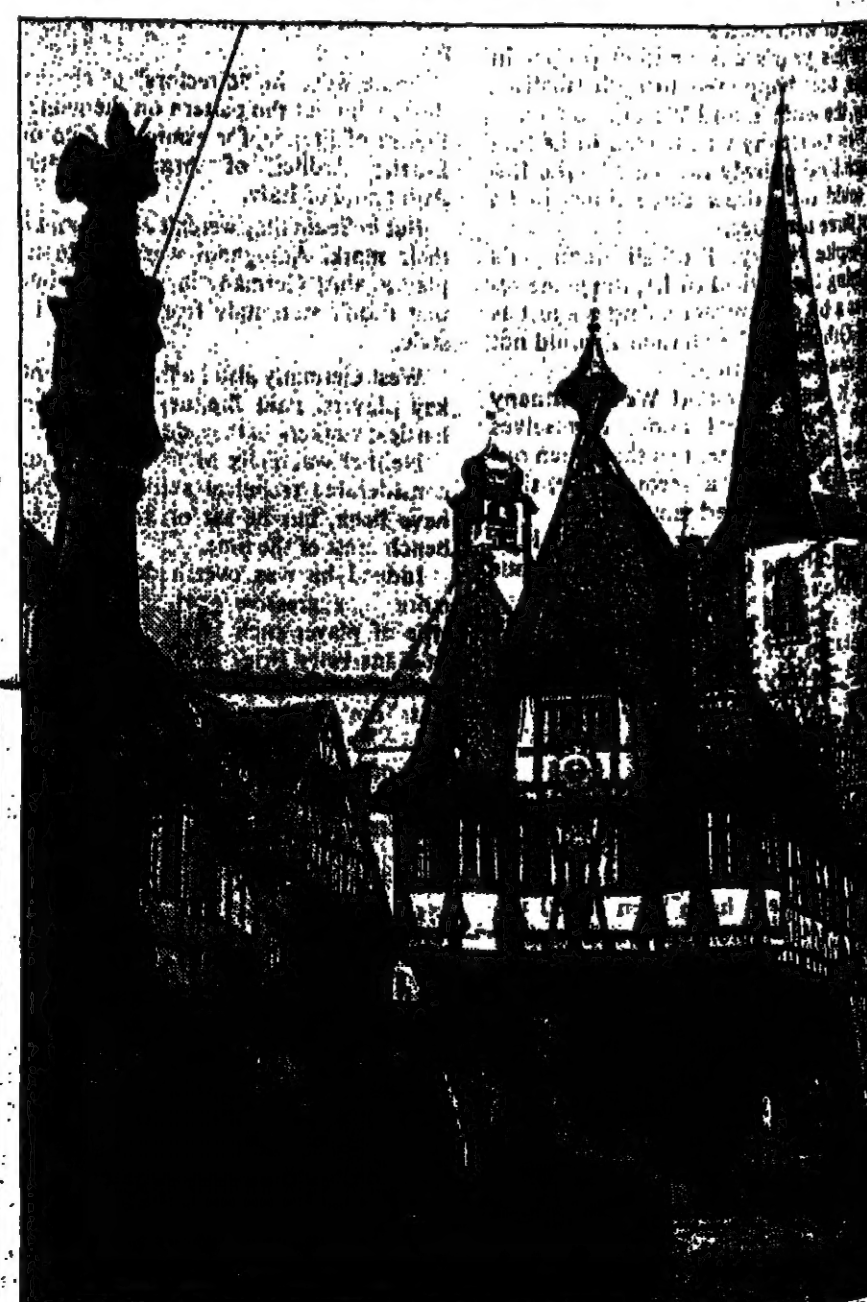
German roads will get you there — to the Odenwald woods, for instance, where events in the Nibelungen saga, the mediaeval German heroic epic, are said to have taken place. Sagas may have little basis in reality, but these woods about 30 miles south of Frankfurt could well have witnessed gaiety and tragedy in days gone by. In Worms, on the left bank of the Rhine, people lived 5,000 years ago. From the 5th century AD the kings of Burgundy held court there, going hunting in the Odenwald.

With a little imagination you can feel yourself taken back into the past and its tales and exploits. Drive from Wertheim on the Main via Miltenberg and Amorbach to Michelstadt, with its 15th century half-timbered Rathaus. Cross the Rhine after Bensheim and take a look at the 11th to 12th century Romanesque basilica in Worms.

Visit Germany and let the Nibelungen Route be your guide.

- 1 The Hagen Monument in Worms
- 2 Miltenberg
- 3 Odenwald
- 4 Michelstadt
- 5 Wertheim

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS EV
Balthasarstrasse 59, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.



The German Tribune

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Middle East war amid politics of ambiguity

Most all political action in the Middle East, on all sides, is marked by ambiguity: without this ambiguity the fighting in Lebanon would not have happened the way it has. Relations between the Arab states and the PLO are typical. The PLO is recognised neither by Israel nor by the United States as a spokesman for the Palestinians. In the past this has been used by all Arab states except Egypt as a pretext for clearing of both peace talks and negotiations with Israel. The Arab states used the PLO as a means of expressing their hostility to Israel without running the slight risk themselves. For the same reason most Arab states have agreed to it that the PLO, despite the fact of many former Palestinians in its territory, has never gained direct access to their policies or systems of government.

Never the PLO sought to do so. Its members and supporters were, as in Jordan, promptly expelled from the country. Saudi Arabia, for instance, has lent the PLO financial backing in return for assurance that no unrest would be fomented in the kingdom by the Palestinians.

For the other Arab states it was thus an advantage that the PLO settled in Lebanon and made that country its operational basis for raids on Israel. Israel alone once departed from the rule by using force against the Palestinians when it invaded Lebanon to strike a claim to be a kind of protecting power.

It went on to give the PLO a free hand again, which meant that Israel would be subject to PLO attacks and raids without other Arab states being to shoulder responsibility. They were operations for which the PLO alone was to blame.

It was very much apparent, and in a unsatisfactory manner from the point of view, when after the invasion of Lebanon the Arab states first kept very quiet.

Then it was clear that fighting would only be expected to come to an end after a withdrawal of PLO armed forces from Lebanon or their total destruction. There was very little change in this ambiguous attitude taken by the Arab states.

They were most reluctant to consider the PLO units a new home on their territory. To begin with it even seemed as though they might prefer to see the PLO wiped out militarily.

And the United States could be expected for that, and the political structure of the PLO might conceivably be destroyed.

All events they initially seemed to have this prospect to the option of

permitting a PLO military presence on their own territory.

Here too Egypt seemed from the outset to be an exception, although previously it had never allowed the PLO to establish itself on Egyptian soil.

It offered to give a PLO government in exile a new home in Cairo. But the Egyptian attitude was governed by an ambiguity of yet another kind.

Cairo insisted, and continues to insist, on its acceptance of the PLO being subject to a solution of the Lebanon conflict, including principles for a Middle East settlement, in which the PLO was definitely to play a part.

So Egypt while making the most far-reaching offer, made the most far-reaching demands too.

Its obvious intention was to break through its isolation in the Arab world since the Camp David agreement and at the same time to absolve itself of its still unfulfilled obligations by the terms of the agreement.

These commitments included partial responsibility for Palestinian self-government on the West Bank.

But this made the Egyptian position extremely dangerous when it came to an immediate settlement of the Lebanon conflict. It gave the PLO a pretext for delaying its withdrawal.

This in turn was bound to prompt the Israelis to steadily turn the screw and intensify the threat of a military solution.

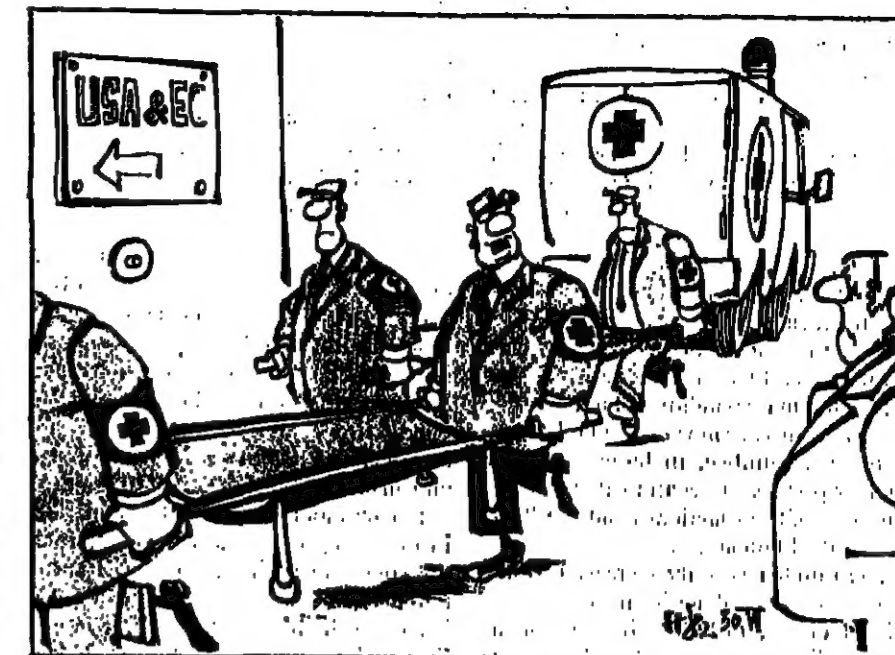
Israel's position in the Lebanon conflict has likewise been ambiguous. When Israeli troops invaded the country the aim of military operations was said to be the establishment of a security zone 40km deep into Lebanon to prevent future PLO attacks on Galilee.

Was this declaration merely intended to camouflage Israel's true intentions or was it Israel's swift military success that prompted it to extend its operational objectives? No-one yet knows.

At all events the Israeli army was suddenly in and around Beirut and the annihilation of PLO forces surrounded in western Beirut seemed to be within Israel's reach.

Then the Israeli forces came to an initial halt, offered the PLO an opportunity to withdraw and agreed to a bid to arrive at a negotiated settlement of the Lebanon conflict.

In retrospect one wonders why, if expulsion of the PLO was Israel's foremost objective, the Israelis did not con-



Just a quiet little family squabble.

(Cartoon: Holtzinger/Is Monoton)

More give and take over steel quotas

DIE WELT

The steel crisis compromise reached by the United States and the European Community, a major news agency said, came to grief the day details were announced.

Viewed solely in terms of supply quotas, this is a valid comment. US steelmakers are opposed to the cutback in BEC exports to the American market from 6.3 to 5.756 per cent.

They feel this measure of self-restraint by Common Market steel manufacturers is not enough and have refused to withdraw their anti-dumping proceedings against BEC competitors, which was a prerequisite for agreement.

On steel exports the two sides may now be no further than they were before US Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige reached agreement with the two BEC commissioners responsible.

But that is only one side of the story. The other is the political aspect, and despite the US steel industry's "no" it cannot be overlooked.

The fact that agreement has been reached at the political level is a signal. It is a signal from Europe because the cutback offered by the BEC would have meant European steelmakers exporting 450,000 tons less to the United States even though the European steel industry is suffering from an enormous capacity surplus.

Above all, however, it is a political signal by the United States. Baldrige agreed to the proposal even though he was well aware of the problems the US steel industry currently faces. It too is

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WORLD AFFAIRS

Tough going at disarmament talks under some old but apt words of warning

Nations Must Disarm Or Go Under is written in gilt over the entrance to the chamber in the League of Nations building in Geneva where the UN disarmament committee is back in session.

Few if any of the delegates pays any attention these days to this sterling quotation from Britain's Lord Robert Cecil, the 1937 Nobel peace prize-winner.

After the three-month summer recess they shook hands and got back to the agenda, which is by no means easier than when the conference was adjourned in April.

In the meantime the special UN General Assembly session on disarmament has ended in resounding failure.

Forty states are now on the UN disarmament committee, including all five nuclear powers. It began in 1960 on the initiative of the Americans and the Russians with 10 members.

The number steadily increased to include virtually all militarily important UN members, including both German states, Vietnam and Cuba, Argentina and India.

Israel and South Africa alone have not been allowed to join the ranks.

But productivity has declined as membership has increased. Between 1963 and 1972 agreements were reached on a test ban treaty in the atmosphere, on the exclusively peaceful use of outer space, on demilitarisation of the seabed, on nuclear non-proliferation and a ban on bacteriological weapons.

The conference has since been very busy but failed to achieve much by way of results. At best it can claim responsibility for theoretical preliminaries by experts that may one day make it easier to reach agreement.

For lack of instructions by their governments to tackle specific problems delegations have set up one working party after another the main purpose of which would seem to be boosting paperwork.

This decline of the UN disarmament

Continued from page 1.

comparisons and cautious compromise proposals.

But sooner or later there comes the point at which he has to reach a decision and, having sized up all the arguments, submit proposals of his own on which the success or failure of the mission is to depend.

For the United States this point was reached as soon as it was clear the Israelis would not rule out the military option.

America was bound, even in the face of Israeli opposition, to be keen to ensure that the PLQ was given an opportunity of withdrawing from Lebanon.

Its military units could be transferred to other Arab states that would then exercise control over them, and a PLO benefit of its military opportunities would depend on a political role that would be bound to tend toward moderation.

But the Arab countries too must be given to understand that if Washington was still to influence Israel a PLO withdrawal was the only remaining option.

All now depends on whether Washington has succeeded in making this point absolutely clear.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 8 August 1982)

committee is due in no small measure to the superpowers' policy of negotiating bilaterally on arms control to exclude tiresome supporting players.

Since 1969 the United States and the Soviet Union have negotiated in separate buildings, behind closed doors, on reciprocal limitation and reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

Since 1979 they have also been discussing intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

In 1973 the Vienna troop cut talks between Nato and the Warsaw Pact began to discussing mutual balanced force reduction in Central Europe.

That left the Geneva disarmament conference with little but crumbs on which to feed, albeit including a few tit-bits such as a ban on chemical weapons and an end to nuclear tests of all kinds.

Progress looked as though it might be in the offing on a test ban just before the conference adjourned for its summer recess. Under pressure from the West and the non-aligned countries the Soviet Union agreed to the establishment of a working party to look into methods of verifying a total test ban.

This was felt to be a minor sensation. Moscow had previously refused even to consider international controls in the Soviet Union itself.

In 1976 the Soviet Union made a slight departure from its traditional mistrust in reaching agreement with the United States on the surveillance of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

By the terms of the 1976 agreement mutual inspection is envisaged in certain circumstances. But the provision has never been put into practice and the US Congress even refused to ratify the agreement.

Nato foreign ministers are to meet informally in Montreal at the beginning of October. It will be a chance to discuss their differing points of view on many issues.

The announcement, by Canada's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mark MacQuigan, was welcomed in Bonn.

Bonn noted that the conference was not a crisis session. It had been planned for some time along lines suggested by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

His idea was that informal meetings should be held by Nato foreign ministers in much the same way as BEC foreign ministers regularly confer.

The Montreal meeting was important in view of tension between America and Western Europe, especially in connection with the Soviet gas pipeline contract and US restrictions on steel imports from Europe.

It would also be a chance for the new US Secretary of State, George Shultz, to meet many of his Nato opposite numbers. Herr Genscher is to meet Mr Shultz at the end of September when they are both in New York for an UN General Assembly.

He first suggested confidential gatherings of Nato foreign ministers along Gynmich lines in 1980. Schloss Gynmich, near Bonn, was where BEC foreign ministers first met confidentially, without aides and without a set agenda.

The proposal may not have been put

Hopes of further progress in the session that has just begun were dimmed when, at the end of July, the US government announced that it was not going to hold further negotiations on a test ban as long as inspection was not settled to Washington's satisfaction.

So that brought the debate back to Square One, with the chain of arguments having turned full circle.

US Torpedoes Test Ban Talks, Time magazine headed its article on the subject. Senator Edward Kennedy announced details of a draft resolution against the government's decision. His fellow senator, Gary Hart, criticised it as "unwise and unnecessary."

Western diplomats well-disposed toward the current US administration, however, feel there has been a misunderstanding. President Reagan really intended to upgrade the work of the Geneva conference by deciding to call a halt to talks with Britain and Russia.

The fact is that none of the five nuclear powers is in any hurry to call an end to nuclear tests. Any such move could in the longer term lead to an unwitting degree of nuclear disarmament.

Trials of new nuclear warheads serve not only the purpose of continually improving atomic weapons. Tests must regularly be held to check that existing devices are still in working order.

Fissile material tends to suffer from fatigue when stockpiled for too long, as the Americans discovered after their voluntary test ban from 1959 to 1961.

Many warheads manufactured over this period were found not to function properly.

When America, Britain and Russia agreed in 1963 to ban nuclear tests in the atmosphere and under water their

Informal agenda for Nato foreign ministers

into immediate effect but in December 1980, at Herr Genscher's suggestion, Nato in Brussels held its first super-restricted sessions.

All concerned now feel that sessions along these lines have proved useful.

Herr Genscher brought up the idea of informal gatherings of foreign ministers again in March 1982, first convincing Secretary of State Haig that they would be useful.

They could help to bring about closer coordination between the United States and its European allies, and with it an intensification of the political dimension of the alliance.

Informal consultations, he said, could help partners in Nato to arrive via joint analyses at joint findings, and in view of changes of government in member-states personal consultations fostered continuity.

With backing from the United States and others, including Italy and Norway, he succeeded at the May 1982 Luxembourg meeting of Nato Foreign Ministers in bringing about a decision to introduce meetings of this kind.

It was agreed to make use of the pre-

terior motive was to make it more difficult for France and China to build a nuclear capacity.

But neither signed the treaty and the Chinese are still dependent on trying out nuclear tests in the atmosphere. The others test their devices underground, Britain jointly with the United States.

At present the Soviet Union accounts for half the nuclear tests undertaken.

The superpowers in particular are under heavy pressure from the media to have-nots to call a halt to atomic tests at least for a few years so as to contain arms race.

In 1974 the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to disperse with their nuclear tests of devices with an explosive force of more than 150 kilotons.

For purposes of verification long-term geoseismographic and computer monitoring was considered sufficient, and this agreement too both states have adhered to in practice.

More powerful nuclear tests are entirely unnecessary. Miniature devices and the nuclear detonators of hydrogen bombs are all that is tested.

Many experts have long felt the argument over test ban surveillance to be mere shadow-boxing. Technically underground nuclear explosions could be detected immediately without difficulty.

The Americans plan to hold secret talks with the Russians on control of nuclear weapons. Moscow has not rejected the offer of the CDU with special rights to proposal. But that is no reason for optimism.

Representatives of the have-nots are afraid this is just a manoeuvre to keep the entire nuclear test complex on the UN disarmament committee's hands.

By means of sham negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union a total test ban, as promised years, could be shelved yet again.

Pierre Simonin
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 August 1982)

sence of nearly all Nato foreign ministers in New York for the autumn session of the UN General Assembly.

A Canadian invitation to attend a gathering in Montreal at the beginning of October was then accepted.

Discussion then centred on whether the foreign ministers ought not to be accompanied by at least one aide. Herr Genscher succeeded in gaining agreement that the ministers meet on their own, with only Nato Secretary General Joseph Luns of Holland other than present.

That, it was agreed, was the only way to ensure that deliberations were confidential and frank.

(Die Welt, 5 August 1982)

The German Tribune

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DEFENCE

Falklands war shows 'Germany is on the right track' with equipment

The war in the Falklands has confirmed that the German navy is being equipped in the right way, says the naval Chief of Staff, Vice-Admiral Ansgar Bethge. He said the Tornado fighter-bomber with its Cormoran missiles was a great danger to enemy surface vessels. "We were right in the way we have equipped our frigates and patrol boats with modern electronics and missiles," he told Wolfgang Höpker of *Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt*.

Höpker: Naval power and rule of the sea have for decades been frequently used phrases in Germany. Do they retain their significance following the South Atlantic war?

Ansgar Bethge: We have coined a new terminology in Nato that somewhat reflects the term "rule of the sea" though modern weapons systems with their great range and destructive power put a new light on it. There is, for one thing, the term "sea control", which means the exercising of control over an area that includes the sea and air space. And then there is the term "sea denial", which means denying the enemy the use of the sea for his operations on a limited basis in terms of time and area. In the case of the Falklands conflict, the islands were under Argentine air dominance while Britain had sea superiority. These two sub-components permitted neither party to exercise "sea control".

— or, in conventional phraseology, "sea rule". This discrepancy was responsible for the relatively heavy naval losses of the British and the heavy Air Force losses of the Argentines. The land power Argentina confronted the naval power Britain.

Q: Do large surface naval vessels still stand a chance in the face of modern missiles?

A: In my view, it is wrong to base a general judgment on the worth or worthlessness of surface forces on a dual situation as it existed in the Falklands conflict. Take the loss of the *Sheffield*. That vessel had been built as a submarine chaser to be used in the Atlantic. The designers did not consider a threat from the air. And that is what happened in the Falklands war. As a result, the *Sheffield* was inadequately armed. There was also an evidently unfortunate tactical deployment that enabled enemy aircraft to come close to the destroyer and remain undetected.

Q: Isn't an adequate air shield the decisive element in determining success or failure of a naval operation?

A: Yes. A naval war without extensive air and sea observation from the air is barely imaginable today. The British Navy in the Falklands lacked an early warning aircraft that would have kept a check on approaching aircraft and enemy ships. The Argentines were able to use spotter planes and record all British

moves, reporting them to the air force. The large carriers which the Americans have, unlike the British, have long-range spotter planes with extremely efficient radar sets and data transmission to the vessel.

Q: So this type of American carrier would be invulnerable due to its protective system?

A: That would be saying too much. Even such a carrier is vulnerable; but there is a large safety margin. It is extremely difficult to approach such a carrier undetected — and this applies not only to surface vessels and aircraft but to submarines as well.

In our sea area in the North German region, we have many airports and land bases from which missiles, surveillance aircraft, spotter planes and fighters can be launched to detect operations of enemy naval forces and start defence operations. The carrier still has its function that cannot be replaced by any other weapons system in large sea areas.

Q: The South Atlantic is outside the Nato area, which is north of the Tropic of Cancer. Is this area division still tenable? If nothing else, doesn't the Cape route, which is vital for the West, call for an inclusion of the South Atlantic in the common defence planning?

A: The restriction is based on political considerations and there is no political reason to change it. If we were to extend the Nato area, we would also have to extend the automatic commitment to assist to other sea areas and bordering land areas to include other nations. That would be no contribution to peace but would in fact increase the danger of a conflict.

Whether the nations that vitally depend on the import of raw materials and oil should not agree on mutual support should transport routes or the exploitation of raw materials in their countries of origin be endangered is another matter. This would be subject to a consultation process but would not entail an automatic commitment to assist.

Q: Did the deployment to the South Atlantic of strong British naval forces weaken the defence of the North Atlantic?

A: Without doubt it weakened the Western presence in the North Atlantic. But only few of the British units in the North Atlantic, the Arctic Ocean and the Norwegian Sea were sent to the South Atlantic. The ships that were deployed there were withdrawn from fleets that were meant to defend the East Atlantic.

I see no general weakening of Nato naval presence in the North Atlantic — especially now after the end of the Falklands conflict. Even after their losses, the British still have enough destroyers and frigates ready for action should there be a crisis in the North Atlantic.

Q: What is today's defence position against the Soviet threat from the Arctic Sea and the Baltic?

A: Under certain conditions, Western naval forces are strong enough to exercise control in the areas that are vital for the supply of the European countries should a crisis arise. One question that remains open is whether every enemy submarine in this region can be kept under surveillance should there be a



Vice-Admiral Bethge... a powerful submarine.

(Photo: J. H. Dab)

war and whether they can be kept effectively. Even today, it is still difficult to do a constant check on submarines, but a final court of appeal on labour is regarding surface forces. I have no doubt that we can pinpoint enemy vessels and keep them under constant surveillance.

Q: The role of the German navy in the Falklands war was only warranted in lands war changed any attitudes?

A: The *Bremen* company was seriously hampered. Frigates or the Tornado programme, but staff who feel the Kassel ruling is to replace the Lockheed Starfighter in their protection are mistaken.

A: No. I must make that clear. We see ourselves fully committed to our planning. The naval fighter-bomber Tornado, which is equipped with Cormoran missiles, represents a growing number of judges at a danger to enemy surface vessels. The *Bremen* company was seriously hampered. Frigates or the Tornado programme, but staff who feel the Kassel ruling is to replace the Lockheed Starfighter in their protection are mistaken.

Q: What conclusions will the South Atlantic conflict draw from this conflict?

A: The Soviet fleet kept out of the Falklands conflict; but this was not for political reasons. Also, it would be very difficult to operate in the South Atlantic area so far removed from the bases. It's hard to say to what extent the Soviets will draw conclusions from this conflict.

In this case, naval armament is not just because it means less for the court, which will then not give judgment. It is that it is no world-wide operations. The Soviet have satellites, and they are probably a position to have satellite data in frequent absences from work often

Q: Hasn't the war in the South Atlantic had a positive effect by credibly demonstrating the West's deterrence of nuclear war?

A: The Soviets were no doubt surprised about the stiff response of the British government. They have certainly been with respect that Britain was in a position to deploy a considerable naval force over a large distance and far from its home bases. This is an enormous achievement that is likely to have impact on the East.

Q: The East-West conflict has increasingly spread to the oceans of the world. What can the German Navy do in this situation?

A: The German naval command makes no direct contribution here. Continued on page 5.

LABOUR

Less job security for the ill: appeal rulings tend to back employers

Employees who fall ill now have less job security than before. More are sacked. And more appeals against dismissal are failing.

Frankfurt judges just brought out the second edition of a book called *Arbeitsrechtshandbuch* (Labour Tribunal Proceedings) which tells how the courts work in practice.

They say that workers who are off sick for any length of time frequently get sacked. Sickness is a major feature about a third of appeals against dismissal.

But the proportion should be less if the rulings of the Federal Labour Court in Kassel were any guide.

In 1980 the Kassel judges, who are a constant check on lower courts, ruled that "for reasons of the sick that we can pinpoint enemy vessels and keep them under constant surveillance."

West's naval defences: has the dismissal was only warranted in lands war changed any attitudes? The *Bremen* company was seriously hampered. Frigates or the Tornado programme, but staff who feel the Kassel ruling is to replace the Lockheed Starfighter in their protection are mistaken.

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With a works council as compliant as this quotation indicates, why should the management worry unduly about who to sack?

Labour court judges have very little leeway in cases of dismissal on grounds of rationalisation or partial shut-downs.

All the company needs to do is to claim that turnover and orders have declined so steeply that the firm will soon be in the red and that staff must be dismissed before the company is no longer running at a profit.

The Federal Labour Court in Kassel has ruled that judges in lower courts are not entitled to check the economic or technical feasibility of management decisions.

All they can do is consider whether a rationalisation measure is "clearly unobjective, unreasonable or arbitrary." Only then can they take action.

So a company that sacks its charlatans because it claims it is less expensive to hire contract cleaners need have no fear, certainly none of a German labour court.

The employer usually has the cards stacked well in his favour in other cases of appeal against illegal or unfair dismissals.

"The fact is," the authors write, "that with the law as it stands employees cannot, except in circumstances so uncommon as not to count, possibly get their old job back even if they win their appeal against dismissal."

From the time an appeal is lodged until a judgement is issued by the first court at least six months elapse. If the case is at all complicated it can well take a year.

When the case is taken to a higher court the next ruling will take another year. If an appeal is taken to the Kassel court four to six years can easily elapse before a final judgement is reached.

For all this time the employee will no longer be actually employed by the firm he has taken to court, and even if he has the stamina to take his case from one court to the next he will still have to find a new job in the meantime.

So in the end it will just be a matter of money. Who is going to quit a new

Continued from page 4

we are making an indirect contribution by the fact that we would replace the naval forces that the major naval powers would withdraw from the northern flank for the sake of a stronger presence in, say, the Gulf region.

I also believe that we could in a limited way be in a position to close the gaps this would create. Conceivably, this could be done by deploying our new frigates whose modern systems would enable them to cover a considerably wider range.

Q: How far north would such an intervention extend... perhaps as far as the latitude of the Norwegian port of Bergen?

A: This cannot be limited in regional terms. It depends on the situation and

job to go back to work for an employer he has only seen at court hearings in recent years?

"Rumour has it," the Frankfurt judges claim, "that the Protection Against Dismissal Act is in practice merely a Redundancy Payments Act."

"The role of the judge in an appeal against dismissal is said to be that of awarding cash consolation in lieu of damages for unfair dismissal."

Offers are made and bargains are struck in many cases before the lower court. The outcome has been probed by sociologists at the Max Planck Institute of Foreign and International Civil Law, Hamburg.

On behalf of the Bonn Labour Ministry they polled 1,057 companies, 740 works councils and 880 sacked workers between October 1978 and September 1980.

They also evaluated 1,393 dismissal appeals before the courts.

In a lengthy report they found that 60 per cent of labour tribunal cases end in an out of court settlement, 14 per cent in a judgement and 19 per cent in withdrawal of the appeal.

These figures are by no means an accurate guide to prospects of success. Only nine per cent of those who appealed actually went back to work for their old firm, and a third of these quit before long.

Besides, despite trade union legal cover only a small proportion of people sacked ever appeal against dismissal.

So the final figure is disappointing. Only 71 of 10,000 workers dismissed in 1978 succeeded in gaining reinstatement by recourse to a labour court.

The percentage would be a little higher if more cases were fought until a ruling was given. By no means all workers needed to have accepted an out of court settlement.

An estimated one in three of those who did would have stood a fair chance of winning the case.

In many cases, the authors conclude, staff are unfairly sacked, but by settling out of court they accept damages in lieu of unfair dismissal.

The benefit of settling out of court, it is invariably said, is that cash is paid on the nail and some, if not all, of the redundancy payment is tax-free.

Employers and even judges often suggest that a firm cash offer is tempting in comparison with a court case that

developments. To start with, we operate on the assumption that the operational area of the new frigates will be the North Sea and parts of the Norwegian Sea.

Q: Is the Baltic Sea outside the operational area of the new frigates?

A: They are not intended for the relatively confined Baltic. That's obvious. Let me say that the different weapons systems of the navy have been designed for both sea areas on the northern flank where defence operations might become necessary.

A deployment outside this sea area would only be considered after consultations with Western governments should a crisis make this necessary.

Wolfgang Höpker
(*Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt*, 6 August 1982)

may or may not end well.

In such cases one can only say that the judges are human and not keen on saddling themselves with more work than is absolutely necessary.

"To prepare and carry out a court session at which a settlement is merely confirmed in writing," the Max Planck sociologists say, "labour court judges take exactly 46 minutes less than the three hours they take to draft, dictate and read a judgment."

The number of cases pending is steadily increasing. In the first quarter of this year a third more appeals were lodged in Frankfurt than from January to March 1981.

So considerations of labour and time saving are increasingly important.

Many specialists in labour law say it is high time workers who are unfairly dismissed were effectively entitled to further employment by the company so as to ensure that they don't give up the fight.

The Works Councils Act already includes a provision along these lines for works councillors who are unfairly dismissed.

In occasional instances other employees have also been ruled in continued employment by the company pending the outcome of their appeal.

An airline pilot who is dismissed stands to forfeit his pilot's licence because he can no longer log the hours needed to retain it.

The judges role is... handing out cash consolation in lieu of damages.

So he will stand a fair chance of having the labour court rule he is still employed by the airline pending the outcome of proceedings.

The same is true of a surgeon, whose qualifications are sure to take a knock if he is unable to keep up with his day-to-day work.

But the right to continued employment is one that has not yet applied to a railway cleaner or charlady with a large company who have been given the sack.

The fact of life for the small fry is that even if their dismissal was unfair, once they have been sacked they are out on their ears.

Even if they appeal against dismissal only two per cent can ever expect to be reinstated at their old firm.

Provided the works council declares itself to be opposed to the dismissal and does so in the right way and in due time, there may just be a small chance of the labour court approving an injunction ordering the employer to reinstate the dismissed person pending the outcome of proceedings.

Even the wildest optimists among labour law specialists harbour no illusions that Bonn will improve matters in the foreseeable future.

The slightest suggestion of any intention of extending protection from dismissal to include continued employment pending the outcome of an appeal would lead to complaints and massive pressure by the employers.

The only authority that need have no fear of such pressure is the Federal Labour Court in Kassel. It is due to decide at the end of October whether the right to continued employment is to be extended.

The trade unions have great hopes of a favourable decision by the Kassel judges. It would be a great help in combating arbitrary dismissals.

Jürgen Schenk
(*Frankfurter Rundschau*, 31 July 1982)

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FINANCE

Bundesbank's quarter of a century at the till

The Bundesbank has no intention of using its powers to cover up bad economic policies by Bonn, says Karl Otto Pöhl, the bank's president. He told Christoph Wehnelt and Dietrich Zwitz of the weekly magazine, *Wirtschaftswache*, that the bank has only limited political influence, and then only on monetary policy. "I don't think we should compete with the government," he said.

Wirtschaftswache: Mr. Pöhl, wouldn't you have wished to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Bundesbank in less troubled times?

Pöhl: There can be no doubt that the poor economic performance and growing unemployment have made this a particularly trying time for the central bank — not only in this country, but other central banks as well.

Q: And what about the high budgetary deficits?

A: Yes, there is that, and there are, still the too high inflation and interest rates that I would naturally — like anybody else — wish to be lower.

Q: It is curious that a central bank president should regret high interest rates. If that's so, you could reduce the rate — at least, that is what everybody says.

A: That's a widespread view; but being widespread doesn't make it right. The central bank's possibilities of determining interest rates are limited because they must at the same time also keep inflation down.

A decisive factor that determines our interest rates lies in the fact that Germany is closely tied to international trade and that the Deutschmark has become an international currency, one of the major reserve currencies after the dollar.

Q: In other words, the autonomy in determining interest rates has been passed on to foreign countries. But what about internal political autonomy?

A: A certain tension between the Bundesbank and the government is normal. My predecessors also had their problems. Vöckel and Blessing had their problems with Adenauer. Kliesch had a rather dramatic dispute at the time with the Minister-Schiller. And even during the Eisinger era it was not all sunshine between Bonn and Frankfurt. Today, too, there are occasional differences of views between Bonn and Frankfurt. But generally we pursue the same aims.

Q: Are these improved relations now due to the fact that you are the first Bundesbank president to come from the political centre of power?

A: Only geographically, do I come from the centre of power. I was not a politician but a civil servant. My work as state secretary at the Finance Ministry was uncontroversial, politically. I was in charge of international monetary policy and debt management. But the fact that I'm quite familiar with the Bonn machinery has certainly contributed to essentially frictionless relations between the Bundesbank and the Bonn government.

Q: But shouldn't the monetary guardian Pöhl shed his former role of federal debt-maker?

A: The law governing the Bundesbank tells the Bundesbank president and all other members of the Central Banks' Council what they have to do. That is, ensure monetary stability. This being so, there was no need for me to change. All I have to do is abide by the law. But this does not mean that I considered monetary stability less important in my previous post.

Q: Knowing what you know today, do you consider it right that more and more politicians are being channelled into the Central Bank's Council?

A: There are only three former politicians on the Central Banks' Council. But the way I see it, there is nothing that speaks against a former politician being a member of the council if he has the necessary expertise.

Q: The question you ask is essentially a question as to the democratic legitimacy of the Bundesbank, which has occasionally been questioned. But the Bundesbank naturally has a democratic legitimacy.

A: Its legitimacy rests in the law. According to the will of the lawmakers, the Bundesbank is independent of the government or business interests and of parliament.

Q: The autonomy of the Bundesbank could be endangered if a parliamentary majority in Bonn agreed on it.

A: I'm convinced that the independence of the Bundesbank is now regarded as a constitutional provision and cannot be changed.

Q: Does the Bundesbank then consider itself a sort of auxiliary economic government?

A: It would be quite wrong to see it this way. We have only limited political influence. And then only on monetary policy — though on this one point our influence can be quite considerable.

Q: But the Bundesbank could cause considerable difficulties to Bonn when it comes to financing government deficits.

A: We would certainly not cover up for a wrong fiscal policy with a cloak of lax monetary policy. This being so, the public sector must regard the monetary policy of the Bundesbank as an indicator, just like everybody else.

Q: Why, then, does the Bundesbank not take on the function of debt manager for the state?

A: It would not be practical for the Bundesbank to take charge of the entire debt management of the public sector or even only of the federal government.

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Karl Otto Pöhl... a little tension is normal. (Photo: Sven Simon)

But the law does stipulate that we have to assume the function of fiscal agent for the public sector. This means, for instance, that the federal government, the states and special funds must maintain their accounts with us. In addition, we provide cash loans to Bonn, the states and the special funds — loans whose extent is also governed by law. Generally, I would say that the public sector must coordinate its borrowing with us.

Q: But you have no say when it comes to government borrowing?

A: The function of the fiscal agent has been eroded in the past few years by the fact that the public sector has financed an ever larger part of its deficits through notes rather than bonds, and notes don't require the close coordination the law calls for in the case of bonds.

Q: But it was you who invented the policy of making full use of such notes.

A: I must admit that this development began during my time in Bonn. But the idea was by no means to evade the Bundesbank. It was simply due to the volume of the necessary borrowing. This could not have been achieved through bonds.

Q: There is one major area where coordination with Bonn certainly does not work: the transfer to Bonn of Bundesbank profits. You want to make this arrangement permanent, though not at the level of DM10bn as in 1982 and as envisaged for 1983 as well.

A: We have, in fact, discussed the possibility of institutionalising these transfers at a lower level with the finance minister. I say DM4bn or DM5bn, as recommended by the Council of Economic Experts. The finance minister has turned this down.

Q: You could simply have refused, couldn't you?

A: I don't think so. The finance minister had the law on his side. But meanwhile, even we ourselves have become doubtful whether making this arrangement permanent would make sense. This could easily have entailed the danger that the finance minister could construe a title to a specific amount of Bundesbank money with which to finance his budget — even in times when we might not make a profit.

Q: Is there not in any event the danger that the finance minister might simply become used to the billions coming in from Frankfurt?

A: I am actually worried about the day when the Bundesbank will have no or a very much smaller profit while the finance minister still has the billions.

Q: Even so, the Deutschmark of 1948 was worth only 41 pfennigs.

A: While average inflation through the 1950s was 1.1 per cent, in the 1970s it was 2.4 per cent and in the 1980s it was 3.1 per cent.

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The historical perspective

The Bundesbank has just celebrated its 25th anniversary. The law which it owes its existence came into effect on 1 August 1957. Germany's central bank shows the same restraint as did then.

It still considers itself more tied to the tradition of its predecessor, Bank Deutscher Länder, than to the Military Government Act No. 69 of 1948 which established the two-tier central bank system, than to the Deutsche Reichsbank.

Bank Deutscher Länder was the condition for the monetary reform of June 1948 that put an end to the monetary and fiscal policy and replaced the reichsmark by the deutschemark.

The transition from Bank Deutscher Länder to the Bundesbank was made despite the two-tier system.

The state central banks (LZBs) remained the same; only their names changed. The LZB of North Rhine-Westphalia was renamed LZB in North Rhine-Westphalia, but organisations remained the same.

But their presidents still retain seats and votes (together with the members of the Council of Economic Experts) in the form of the Central Banks' Council, the most important decision-making body of the Bundesbank.

The Bundesbank president chairs the Central Banks' Council, but has more than one vote when it comes to decisions on interest rates and minimum reserves for commercial banks.

The Bundesbank board now consists of its president (Karl Otto Pöhl), four other members. This means the Central Banks' Council now consists of 17 members.

The central bank is independent of the government. The depreciation of German money between 1923 and 1933 was only because politicians had much say in monetary policy.

Hitler, for instance, changed the banking laws. As a result, the central bank was allowed to print as much money as it wanted, thus making the devaluation of the currency inevitable.

Germany learned its lesson. It adopted many elements of the US Federal Reserve Bank system in its own central bank after 1948.

The Bundesbank (which is also a net bank, a bank of banks and a state's bank) must support the government's economic policy. But as ex-Bundesbank President Oskar Ehmke sees it, there can be no question of support is only there when it is possible. Even then supporting Bonn comes with a price.

Bundesbank's primary function is to ensure monetary stability. It is not allowed deliberately to favour this in favour of other economic objectives such as growth, full employment and balancing trade.

Ever since the first deutschemark was introduced in 1948, the Frankfurt mint has been a mint of the currency have never any doubt as to their main objective: monetary stability.

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THE ECONOMY

Why the deficit-spending theory goes wrong

Understood: Keynesian approach to getting the economy going is being advocated not only by trade unions and various groups on the left to the centre of the SPD.

Whole branches of industry have been the bandwagon. They all say that the state has to do to borrow money and pump it into the economy.

According to the theory, this would lead to more profit and therefore more investment which in turn the government would repay its debts.

This type of deficit spending has been used in the past — and in slightly less success. The trouble, however, is that the public sector did not go down. It continued to grow, with the consequence that interest remained high, causing chain reaction to the detriment of business, which is now labouring under enormous short-term debts.

Recently, the approach the Flick decision making body of the Bundesbank has been practising for decades has not become a general practice.

The incongruous short-term financing of many firms and the disappointing fact that the rescheduling of the spring failed to materialise are the writing on the wall that are evident in business reports for 1982.

The fact that in these circumstances the branches of industry, like the machine industry, have joined forces with the trade unions in calling for government booster shots (along with steel industry, which demands smooth subsidies) without caring where the state is to get the money only proves that, for many, the economy has been debased to a service.

The understanding of the basic laws of the economy are clearly underpinned.

The great thinkers of the social market economy concept evidently died off with Ludwig Erhard and Professor Franz Oppenheimer.

They were men who implemented the idea with a courage that was anything but natural in those post-1948 years.

In any event, you would look in vain for anybody to come up with an answer to the most important question: "Is it not pump billions of borrowed money into companies (like AEG-Telefunken) only to save the steel industry (like steel)?"

Allowed to go broke because too many jobs depend on them while a company like Bremshey a light manufacturing company with a payroll of 1,300 is allowed to founder?

Those in the steel industry are evidently regarded as much more important than those in sectors like man-made fibres, plastics, petrochemicals, oil products, electrical consumer goods, textiles, clothing, retailing and the trades.

Such sectors as steel, transport, and in the public sector are much slower processes than in textiles and clothing.

Anybody seriously considering a slimming process in the public services sector will soon be made to change his mind by dustmen willing to go on strike at the drop of a hat.

But the picture would be lopsided without mentioning the works councils. They are on the spot and usually know what is happening. They are not as indoctrinated as the major trade union bureaucracies.

Most of the works council members know very well that the cart can only be moved in cooperation with management.

The works councils demand their price, and layoffs are anything but cheap nowadays.

Severance pay is going up from year to year, and frequently there is not enough money in the till to meet it.

It is due to this willingness by works councils to cooperate and the fact that they think as little of a class struggle today as 30 years ago that Germany's industry is still as strong and healthy as it is.

The works councils who are on the spot know what is happening in a business, they know about orders and profits and they know what has to be done.

There are of course, still successful and profitable businesses.

Some have diversified in time while others have stayed where they have their expertise.

The old adage about the cobbler sticking to his last still holds true with some businesses.

Another successful method is to channel the cash earned in stagnating sectors into those that hold a promise of growth, as in the case of Mannesmann, which switched from making pipes to data processing.

But money is not enough. You must also have expert staff.

Karstadt, for instance, has to pay dearly for its learning process with Neckermann simply because department store experts are not necessarily familiar with the mail-order business.

Another thing that emerges in this season of balance sheets and business reports is that the decisive factor is not always money; it can also be personality. Business, like history, is made by people.

This is reflected in most of the business reports: the times have become tougher and as a result the structures of individual companies and of whole branches of industry are becoming clearer.

It is no longer easy to cover up when things are going wrong, although it is still done often.

Anybody taking the trouble to look behind the scenes, to analyse and compare balance sheets will find this easier today.

But whether this possibility is always made use of, whether works councils, trade unions, stockholders and bankers have learned from some of the latest case histories — AEG on the one side and Neue Heimat on the other — remains to be seen.

German corporate law still has too many loopholes permitting "legitimate" deception.

Can a state guarantee jobs in an economic system that is essentially free and based on performance and competition? No. It would be overtaxed if it tried to.

All the state can do is to take over as the new owner in cases where private capital withdraws for lack of profits and where that particular branch of industry is essential for the nation's economy as a whole. This includes public transport, coal mining, shipbuilding and — in a couple of years perhaps — the steel industry.

It usually starts with subsidies. But the state can also take over temporarily.

In 1931/32, the impoverished Reich came to the rescue of the Dresdner Bank as it did in the case of the mining giant, Gelsenkirchen, Bergwerks AG and Vereinigte Stahlwerke when Flick was about to sell the controlling interest to France. Both companies were returned to private ownership a few years later.

The same thing should be possible now. In 1968, the more promise of a state guarantee sufficed to rescue the Krupp concern. The guarantee cost Bonn not a penny.

But such moves must remain the exception, and the fewer of them the better. For the rest, the survival of the fittest must apply.

There are enough examples in the steel industry and in other branches that keep crying for government help to show that there are better ways of going about it.

The troubles of AEG-Telefunken, the steel industry and other companies should not conceal the fact that many of the problems are due to mismanagement.

Not every textiles manufacturer or maker of washing machines or TV sets is operating at a loss because of fierce competition and too many trying to share a small pie.

There are even retailers who still make a sound profit. But such entrepreneurial virtues as industriousness and the willingness to take a risk must not be penalised by the state, which uses the tax revenues from these companies to keep excessive production capacities of obsolete and ailing businesses afloat.

The only major iron and steel company that did not apply for government subsidies this year was Mannesmann. As a company spokesman puts it: "We value our freedom more."

It would be nice if this proud attitude were more widespread in the German business community.

Ernst Berens (Börsen-Zeitung, 31 July 1982)

It surely wish it on him. (Wirtschaftswache, 20 July 1982)

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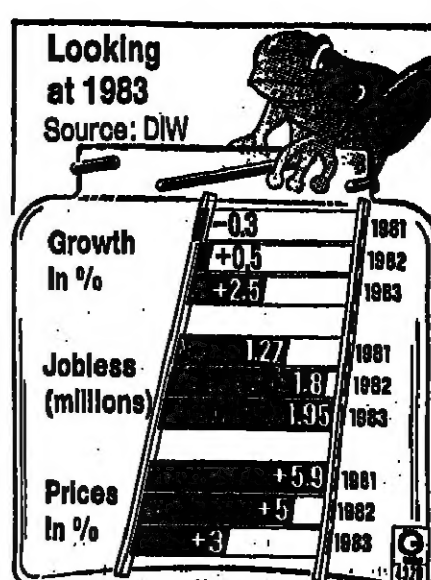
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■ PERSPECTIVE

Party games in a parliamentary democracy: the magic number three

When the Federal Republic of Germany was set up in 1949 and the first elected Bundestag met in Bonn it contained members of nine political parties.

It would have been 10 if the CDU and CSU had not, even in those days, been classified as one party.

With political parties on the brink of double figures pessimists said the stage was set for party-political fragmentation. They were wrong.

The Representation of the People Act was amended before the second general election in 1953 to make life harder for splinter groups, and within a decade the number of parties in the Bundestag was down to three.

Mistakenly, the three-party system has been assumed by some to be, like the capitalist system of free enterprise, an indispensable cornerstone of the constitutional set-up.

The three-party system has been under fire for some time, but no-one has seriously suggested that it is a bugbear of West German politics.

In the mid-70s Franz Josef Strauss started the ball rolling with talk of going nationwide with a fourth party. His Bavarian CSU, he suggested, should stand all over the country.

But what he had in mind was less a change in the political landscape than a threat to the Christian Democrats to make them more compliant to his wishes.

After standing as CDU/CSU candidate for Chancellor in the 1980 general election, which he lost, Herr Strauss abandoned all mention of his fourth-party idea, which seems to indicate that it was merely a tactical ploy.

A fourth party now exists. It is the Greens, or Alternatives, ecological groups represented on many councils and a number of state assemblies.

This is not the place to speculate about the environmentalists' prospects, but let it be said that other parties look like having to bear them in mind for some time.

Unfortunately it looks as though the Greens may before long not be a fourth party but Number Three.

The Free Democrats may well vanish from the political scene, leaving only the Greens alongside the two big boys, the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats.

There may be substantial differences between the Greens and the FDP, but structurally the party system would be unchanged, and it could badly do with a change.

The political system has long suffered from the Free Democrats having seen themselves, arguably since the 60s, as no more than a means of ensuring a majority for one or other of the two major parties.

The FDP itself puts the idea across in a slightly more elegant manner by saying that its aim is to prevent either of the two major parties from gaining an absolute majority.

That is six of one and half a dozen of the other. By preventing one party from gaining an absolute majority it is the sole guarantor of a majority for either it or the other.

If it succeeds in this aim for any length of time, as in the 60s and 70s, it

will end up more or less permanently in power alongside one party or the other, which is bad for any party.

This objection is levelled less at the FDP than at the three-party system that so many Germans feel is a blessing. In the long term it is anything but.

It is nowhere near a match for the two-party system or a multi-party system, as international comparisons show.

Britain has fared well with the present two-party system for over half a century. Britain's Liberals haven't held the balance of power.

It remains to be seen whether the alliance of Liberals and the Social Democrats will bring about a change. If a general election were held tomorrow the Tories would be returned with an absolute majority.

Most democracies in Europe have a multi-party system, and it has done them no harm. A wider choice of parties may be a slightly less stable system than the two-party pattern, but it is more flexible.

It need not be a drawback for Italy's Christian Democrats to have to collaborate with the Communists in one instance and with the parties of the centre in another. A variety of coalition options can enrich political life.

There are three reasons for the coalition merry-go-round in Bonn. They have nothing to do with personalities or the relations between senior politicians, as most of the media like to tell their readers.

The three are:
● The change in political issues
● Sensitivity in relation to power politics
● The increasingly brutal nature of political style.

They are what have really accounted for all the SPD/FDP coalition difficulties since the 1980 general election.

And they prove on closer scrutiny to have been virtually inevitable.

The first is the change in political issues. When the coalition came to power in 1969 it entered a new era in the wake of the conceptional dissociation of post-war politics and an evident social rigidification.

The main aims were social modernisation, mainly extending the welfare state, and reconciliation with the East.

Both issues, which were characteristic of the 1969 Social and Free Democratic consensus, gave the coalition an almost philosophical aura of a historic alliance.

This has all changed. The desire for extension of the welfare state has been replaced by worries about how to finance the welfare burden, a sensitivity toward personal responsibility and consideration for the hard-hit labour market.

As for reconciliation with the East, it seems to have been accomplished. German politics has thrown historical ballast over board and signed treaties with all the Warsaw Pact states.

People nowadays are more worried about the political position and the political role of the West. Given so many domestic disputes, can Nato state

One result of the two-party system is that political clashes are sure to arise in both parties, but once a decision has been reached the majority party can govern as it sees fit.

In the three-party system the larger of the two coalition parties likewise has to settle disputes in its own ranks, but it cannot then govern as it sees fit.

It must continually bear in mind the views of the smaller coalition party. So the three-party system has only the disadvantages, not the advantages of the two-party system.

That would only not be the case if all three parties were roughly similar in size, but this state of affairs is unlikely to arise in Germany.

Germans in the Federal Republic have been guided all too often in their conscious decisions on the shape political life was to take on memories of the Weimar Republic.

The constitutional provision for referendums was misused in the Weimar period, so Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, dispensed with referendum altogether.

After the First World War party-political fragmentation was a problem, so there is still a widespread mistrust of a multi-party system.

The changing demands on the coalition

its case more convincingly and prove more clearly that it is capable of bucking up words with action?

The basic tenor of social worries has shifted and is no longer in tune with the Social and Free Democratic philosophy. Safeguarding economic potential and Western democratic stability have come to the fore.

Thus the fundamental features of political culture no longer provide further impetus toward a Social and Free Democratic consensus.

The second may be termed sensitivity in relation to power politics.

Political parties are large-scale organisations geared to success. Their morale is governed not just by their manifesto but by the degree of electoral support they enjoy.

The history of the Federal Republic of Germany has shown time and again how keenly parties sense new issues and adjust to new social currents.

The FDP is particularly sensitive and quick to respond to such changes. For it the problem is not one of forfeiting a per cent or two of public support. For the Free Democrats it can easily be a matter of life or death.

The FDP has in the past always developed its specific strength as a variation on the views of a larger partner in power.

If it were to forfeit this role, say because the Greens gained in strength and it were no longer capable of ensuring a

Yet the electoral law as it stands most effective at forestalling the emergence of splinter groups.

If there are to be more political ties to the benefit of political life, is needed is not an amendment to Representation of the People Act, different attitude on the part of electorate.

There are already signs that attitudes are changing. Where the three-party system eventually leads is readily apparent from the state of the coalition ties in Bonn today.

The Free Democrats have lost their political profile because in concentrating on ensuring majorities others they have limited themselves to tactics.

The Social Democrats are being summed by international malaise arising from them being unable to pursue policies of their own even if they are able to work out their internal disputes and make up their collective mind.

The Christian Democrats would like much the same position of they in joint harness with the FDP.

The CDU/CSU could emerge as an absolute majority next time. The possibility, which at present seems distinctly feasible, would not solve the problem; it would merely shelve it to the next election.

A two-party system is improbable in this country. What we need is a choice of parties. A mere three parties are no longer enough.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 29 July 1982)

THE ENVIRONMENT

No one knows exactly why the trees keep dying

Frankfurter Rundschau

There are various theories about why so many trees in Germany are dying, but none are proved.

One of the best-known theories is that of acid rain from industrial fallout. It badly hit the fine roots in forest.

Another school has it that a biological imbalance has been created by planting of conifers. This is said to have harmed the small organisms that live in the humus and upset the balance of the mineral soils deeper down.

Changes in the water table and wind profile and the effects of wild animals figure in other ideas.

In 1980 in Baden-Württemberg 2000 hectares of fir trees were reported to be seriously damaged and a further 32,000 hectares slightly damaged.

The total area makes up 4.1 per cent of Baden-Württemberg's forest acreage. In Bavaria, 16,000 hectares of fir trees are reported to be in poor condition.

Many trees are widely reported to be dying in other parts of the country. A Ministry survey does not report any having died.

Udo Seeliger, conservation officer of the Coal-Mining Industry Association, wonders whether there is any gap between the latest figures available and reports of trees dying over large areas of woodland and forest.

There is a time lag then either the damage has spread like wildfire or the probes will be the first to document the full extent of the damage.

Udo Ehl, Bonn Agriculture Minister, outlined to the Bundestag one of the better-known theories. Acid rain affects first the soil and then the trees.

The culprits were polluters of the atmosphere who release sulphur dioxide and other pollutants into the air by burning oil or coal and operating the exhaust fumes.

Sulphur dioxide, a gas, dissolves in the rain and is converted by oxidation into sulphuric acid.

The pH count in rain water then falls from the natural level, 5.6, a level attributed to carbonic acid in the atmosphere.

Acid rainfall dissolves the aluminium in the soil, releasing ions, electrically charged particles that even in minute quantities have a toxic effect on the roots of trees.

Soil specialist Bernhard Schilling is one of the scientists who first came up with the acid rain theory. He gave a name for himself with surveys of the Solling area, north-west of Göttingen, in 1966 and 1973.

He feels aluminium ions damage the roots, leading to the creation of imbalances in the tree trunk that block the passage of water and nutrient.

The trees suffer from both hunger and thirst, as it were, turn brown and die.

This theory is not universally accepted. Karl-Eugen Rehfuß of Munich research institute has come to a different conclusion.

The increasing acidification of the atmosphere observed by Ulrich did not,

he says, continue between 1973 and 1980 even though acid rainfall is sure to have continued.

In 1980, he claims, the acid count in the area even began to fall, and his analyses of soil, inner bark and roots failed to indicate aluminium or manganese poisoning.

Fir trees were also found to be dying on shell limestone slopes where the soil is capable of converting surplus acid into harmless compounds.

The acid rain theory works on the assumption that motor vehicles, power stations, heating and other exhaust sources release a constant flow of sulphur dioxide.

This sulphur dioxide, together with nitrous oxides, is felt to be steadily poisoning Europe's forests.

But other scientists feel the cause is closer at hand and more natural. The likelihood is, says Herr Rehfuß, that years of low rainfall have badly hit the fine roots in forest soil.

Hans Leibundgut of Zurich University of Technology says spruces, with their flat lateral roots, are bound to be particularly hard-hit by lengthier spells of drought.

The dead roots are an ideal breeding ground for root fungi that often take years to do their worst.

Günther Zimmermayer of the Coal-Mining Industry Association feels that the current epidemic of tree deaths could be the result of the 1976 drought.

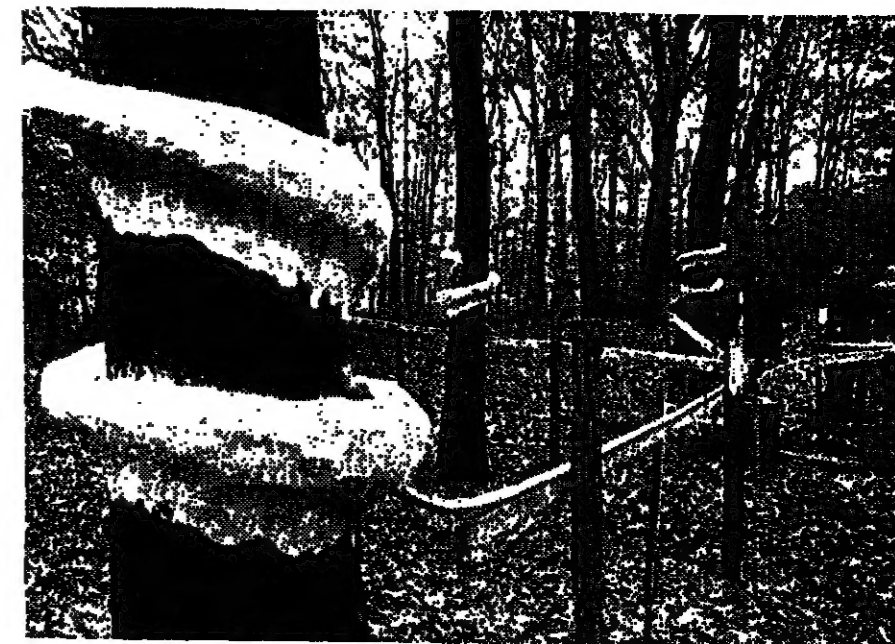
But the case, although made, has yet to be proved. Scientifically acknowledged evidence is not available, let alone proof.

Forest ecologists have come up with yet another idea that could well be a serious contender. They claim forests are grown wrongly, unbiologically.

Large areas of forest acreage are spruce, a single-crop economy and the bread-and-butter of forestry, accounting for over 40 per cent of the total.

A number of botanists say this results in a biological imbalance. Blanket growth of conifers is said to be harmful to the micro-organisms that live in the humus. It also upsets the balance in the mineral soil lower down.

Heat, light and fine rainfall are vital commodities that fail to penetrate the foliage of fir trees. They seldom reach the soil.



Illness of the forests

Soft plastic rings are used to drain off water for testing to see what is damaging these trees in an experiment in the Ruhr. (Photo: Heinz Jürgen Kurlenberg)

Seepage water and humic acid in the soil are felt, so this theory goes, to wash out the important nutrient salts and trace elements, slowly but surely.

Here too the case has yet to be proved conclusively, and scientifically. Other suggestions are that the water cycle has been upset by a fall in the water table or changes in ground profile or a combination of the two.

Mechanical felling may also be to blame, with heavy modern machinery damaging the soil and the bark of surrounding trees. Forestry biologists attribute a fair amount of damage to wild animals nibbling away at young trees too.

All told, however, the only point on which there is any clarity is that no-one knows for sure just what is to blame.

The mysterious killer has yet to be identified even though tree deaths are nothing new. They have occurred in waves, inexplicably, alarmingly, over the decades.

Spokesmen for the mining industry say the time has come to make a thorough scientific study of the phenomenon. But even they are not expecting findings to come to light much before the end of the decade.

The industry naturally objects to accusations that coal-fired power stations are mainly to blame by acidifying fog and rain, resulting in the death of plants, trees and, in the final analysis, animals.

It says the proportion of sulphur

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Nuclear station heat boosts farm yields

Piped heat from Gundremmingen nuclear power station has been harnessed to boost crop yields on neighbouring farmland. Four-year trials have been successful.

Process heat is used in an environmentally unimpeachable manner, being piped as hot water round six hectares of fields.

Maize and potato yields have increased substantially, says the Bavarian soil and plant research institute, but grain yields have, at times, declined.

The agricultural benefit is said to be less important in the long term than the environmental gain. Waste heat can be put to good use in the soil.

Power station cooling towers, which are an undeniable environmental risk, might in future be unnecessary, claims a spokesman for August Thyssen AG, the company in charge of the Agrotherm project.

The Gundremmingen venture has been backed by the Bonn Research Ministry. The idea behind it could certainly prove an alternative to dry cooling towers as a means of handling the surplus heat from nuclear power stations.

Dry cooling towers are said no longer to emit clouds of steam, but they would be less efficient than the conventional variety.

Harnessing process heat for farm use would not only boost crop yields; it would also relieve the burden on the fuel cycle. But the Agrotherm concept is expensive.

For a power station of Gundremmingen's size, 1,300 megawatts, heat would need to be piped to between 6,000 and 8,000 hectares of land. That would cost about DM500m.

So officials at the Bavarian Ministry of Environmental Affairs are doubtful whether the system would prove economic enough to be put to large-scale use either in the short or the long term.

It seems very unlikely that power stations will ever be able to dispense entirely with wet cooling towers.

But the Gundremmingen experiment has on average resulted in 13 per cent higher crop yields. Karl Stankiewicz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 24 July 1982)

FISHING

Sole jolted out of seabed complacency by electric current treatment

Experiments with electricity as a means of catching North Sea sole have been so successful that commercial trials are to be launched this year.

Electric current is used to make flat-fish scurry from the seabed up into the nets that follow in the wake of the electrodes.

Using this technique a department of the Federal Fishery Research Institute, Hamburg, has boosted catches fourfold and reduced damage to the marine environment.

Flat-fish (they include plaice, dab and sole, which is the most valuable catch in the North Sea) are normally caught using trawl nets, one on either side of the cutter, that reach down to the seabed.

The fish are excited by the trawls, which drag the seabed, uprooting molluscs and seaweed and destroying their seabed habitat for a long time to come.

Flat-fish would normally rest on the seabed or flap around close to it, but the disturbance makes them scurry off into the fishermen's nets.

In recent years this destruction of the seabed has been intensified by Dutch trawlers in particular using iron chains to drive the fish into the nets more effectively.

At the same time the wreck even more havoc on the seabed trawled. The iron chains can weigh up to two tons per foot, and trawlers with more powerful engines travel faster and faster to boost catches.

Dutch cutters have started trawling the sole fishing grounds in the EEC Sea off the West German North Sea coast at speeds of up to six knots, using 2,500hp engines.

The damage to the marine environment is matched only by the depletion of sole stocks. These chain nets catch many young fish.

Sole less than 27cm long, for instance, are deemed to be young fish. Catching them is illegal. Using this equipment it is also inevitable.

Continued from page 9

dioxide output for which coal-fired power stations are responsible has remained constant at roughly 20 per cent since 1974, when they began extracting sulphur from the exhaust fumes that went up in smoke.

About 45 per cent of sulphur dioxide fallout comes from abroad and the remaining 55 per cent is accounted for by industry and tradesmen, transport and households.

Power utilities account for a mere 10 per cent of the total, even with a further 10 per cent being the handwork of Mother Nature.

By 1990 half the country's coal-fired power stations, with an estimated total installed capacity of 29,500 megawatts, will have been modernised.

They will then release only half their present amount of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere, it is said in Essen.

This would mean the total output would have declined from 4.2m tons in 1970 to 3.6m tons in 1980 and about 2.8m tons in 1990.

Leonhard Spielhofer
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 July 1982)



In order to comply with regulations, young fish are thrown back overboard, but only a few survive the ordeal. With electricity, fewer small fish are caught.

Professor Steinberg of the Fishery Research Institute has spent years looking into ways of improving flat-fish trawling methods by using electricity.

Electric power is already used in this way in fresh water fishery. He and his staff now seem to have succeeded in harnessing it for use at sea too.

Electricity can be used to send fish scurrying at long range and to attract them at short range. It may also be used selectively.

The larger the fish, the greater the effect. Tension increases in relation to the length of fish.

It is also used to chase fish away from dangerous weirs and points where water is pumped out of a river or lake.

It can even be used to make a clean sweep of sections of river or waterway where there are too many commercially valueless whitefish.

Using electricity at sea is much more difficult because sea water contains salt and much of the voltage is lost. So tricks such as successive but individual electric shocks are used to heighten the effect.

Short, sharp shocks have the same effect as non-stop current, but the energy consumption is much lower. This method was developed in the 50s for use at sea by Dr Kreutzer.

He constructed enormous trawl nets

into which fish were to be driven or attracted by the use of electrodes.

His experiments never really succeeded because they used too much power, there was too much interference and the effect on fish varied.

It varied in accordance with the conductivity of sea water at different temperatures and in different areas with different degrees of salinity.

Even attempts to use electricity on a smaller scale in fishing for tuna (the fish were electrified as soon as they snapped at the bait) failed to be of use in sea fishing.

Success seems finally to have come to a Hamburg engineer, W. Horn, a former colleague of Dr Kreutzer's, at the Fishery Research Institute.

Laboratory experiments first showed that electric current was best put in very short, sharp shocks to send flat-fish rushing from their seabed cover.

The pattern of impulses and intervals between shocks also proved extremely important for the success or failure of putting flat-fish to flight.

If the right pattern and voltage were used, selective fishing proved possible. Only larger sole or plaice would be sent scurrying. Smaller fish would stay where they were.

Seagoing equipment was then designed and built, with financial backing from the Bonn Research Ministry, by a Hamburg company, Impulsfish.

It was put through its paces for several years before full-scale trials were undertaken by the research vessel, the *Solea*.

The equipment uses a lightweight chain of electrodes with inlaid strands of copper. The electrode chain, like its

iron counterpart, is suspended in the net.

During trials a conventional trawl was used on one side of the cutter and an electric one on the other.

In 15 hauls the sole catch on the conventionally equipped side was 624 while on the electric side it was 244, or roughly four times as much.

Converted into hours of trawling ratio was 3.4kg per hour in the one and 12.8kg in the other.

Using the conventional net piles seabed sediment, worms, molluscs, week and dirt were hauled aboard. The electric net yielded a clean catch.

It was so clean that research scientists thought the experiment had failed because the net seemed empty, whereas the conventional net contains hundreds of weights of ballast from which the dredged sole had to be extricated.

Electric sea fishing seems this time to have succeeded. It can even save money. Using an electric net trawling speed of three and a half knots is sufficient to ensure a satisfactory catch.

But the new technique cannot yet be used to boost sole catches, or only by a small margin. Sole is the most highly valued North-Sea catch, and catches are limited by quota in the European Community.

The new technique protects the seabed habitat and young fish, so with the sole stocks will be replenished and quotas can be increased.

This presupposes that the sea is not overfished. He is currently general manager of the big boys and speed king of West Berlin's Deutsche Oper. He was looking forward to his very first.

Smaller fish, both sole and other flat-fish, will have time to grow to full size. The electric technique is widely used.

The next step for fishery research scientists will be to equip a commercial cutter with electric trawl nets this autumn.

They will then keep a scientific eye on how the technique fares in commercial practice.

Harald Stelzer
(Der Tagesspiegel, 31 July 1982)

Scientists beat contaminated krill problem

Then came the cold shower. Routine checks revealed that krill are highly fluorine-contaminated. Their fluorine count is 24 times higher than the maximum permitted by the US Department of Agriculture.

If you eat krill once every three days you will develop stains on your teeth, scientists said. Half a pound a day would be enough to cause calcification and bone damage.

What this meant was that krill could at best be used as fodder.

Hamburg scientists soon discovered that the fluorine could easily be washed out of krill mash, but the technique was expensive.

Besides, after being broken up into mash the krill could not be used for much more than fish fristers.

Further research proved well worthwhile. "We have now arrived at a much more satisfactory assessment," says foodstuff chemist Professor Wolfgang Schreiber.

"The krill," he explains, "accumulates fluorine, which occurs naturally in the

sea, only in its shell. Why it does so we don't yet know."

But the fluorine does not pass from the shell to the meat until the shrimp is dead, so if krill are shelled as soon as possible after being caught the problem can be solved.

The fluorine starts seeping from the shell into the meat about an hour after capture.

This gives rise to a fresh problem. The krill can thus only be put to use with the aid of factory ships that shell them as soon as it is caught.

Shelling machines exist that can shell them without damage to the meat, but their capacity is limited and they cannot process large catches fast enough.

Besides, using expensive factory ships will only pay if they can be sent straight to grounds where bumper catches can be guaranteed.

So the Hamburg scientists have applied to Bonn for a DM4m grant toward a fresh Antarctic expedition. The plan is to take part in an international venture in which scientists from 10 countries are to participate in winter 1983.

Each country is to scour specific sectors of the Antarctic to locate areas rich in krill. Findings should lay the ground work for economic deployment of factory ships.

Harst Zimmermann
(Bremer Nachrichten, 28 July 1982)

OPERA

Friedrich's production of Parsifal throws open the curtains to Bayreuth 1982

Parsifal, Wagner's last opera, has seldom featured in a new production at the annual Bayreuth festival.

Wagner himself ruled that Parsifal was only to be performed in Bayreuth, and after his death no-one dared make changes to Wagner's own 1882 production.

His widow Cosima succeeded in re-staging the 1882 production nearly unchanged for over 50 years, until 1934.

Reinhold Wagner, the elder of the composer's two grandsons, first produced Parsifal in 1937. In 1951, in the post-war Wagner season, he came with a fresh version that prompted a wide debate among Wagner-lovers.

But the new technique cannot yet be used to boost sole catches, or only by a small margin.

Sole is the most highly valued North-Sea catch, and catches are limited by quota in the European Community.

The new technique protects the seabed habitat and young fish, so with the sole stocks will be replenished and quotas can be increased.

This presupposes that the sea is not overfished. He is currently general manager of the big boys and speed king of West Berlin's Deutsche Oper.

He was looking forward to his very first.

Smaller fish, both sole and other flat-fish, will have time to grow to full size. The electric technique is widely used.

The next step for fishery research scientists will be to equip a commercial cutter with electric trawl nets this autumn.

They will then keep a scientific eye on how the technique fares in commercial practice.

Harald Stelzer
(Der Tagesspiegel, 31 July 1982)

So it was hardly surprising that his latest screen venture was to deal directly with Richard Wagner.

And since Syberberg, Wagner's film apostle, is a fan in the sense of fanatic, his imagination seemed sure to give rise to a pathos-steeped screen monster.

It is entitled Parsifal and intended as a tribute to the centenary of the opera's first production in Bayreuth.

The director would have preferred to hold the first performance of his screen epic in the Festspielhaus rather than in a mere cinema, as he noted uneasily at the premiere.

An ordinary film might arguably be best screened in a cinema, but a commemorative work needs to be shown in a memorial.

Syberberg arranged for an unusual presentation of his film on the fringe of the Cannes film festival and for an extravagant showing at Documenta, the Kassel art show.

But his Parsifal was to be seen at its most spectacular in Wagner's own Bayreuth in a screen showing that was to dwarf the hill on which the Festspielhaus stands.

When it came to intellectual proportions, the ratio was arguably altogether different. He invited international critics to attend his ceremony on the morning of the Parsifal first night at the Festspielhaus.

The publicity machine made great play with the Parsifal-like marathon of four and a half hours of film followed by six and a half hours of the opera.

For this writer it wasn't too much of a

awkwardness and succeeds in striking a balance in the "mysterious relationships" between the individual acts.

He even manages to strike a balance between self-denial and eroticism; the twin clues of thread that run right through the opera.

His Second Act is fascinating with its technologically advanced 'magic tower' in which Klingsor holds away wearing a devilish mask and using bright searchlights and smoke bombs.

After the flower girl scene, which stays seductive and is not reduced to the level of vaudeville eroticism; after the sensually sung and played duet between Kundry and Parsifal and the throwing of the spear, Klingsor's might ends with the illusion of a marvellously produced destructive explosion.

Reinhardt, the set designer, was a newcomer to Bayreuth. So was the musical director, James Levine, the 38-year-old musical head of the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

Levine has in the past made a name for himself mainly as a Mozart and Mahler conductor in Salzburg. He proved surprisingly quick on the uptake in dealing with the acoustical problems

presented by the covered orchestra stalls at Bayreuth.

His work with the finely attuned festival orchestra and the magnificent sound of the festival choir, directed by Norbert Balusch, increasingly delighted his first-night audience.

The only shortcoming was that Levine went a little too far in his slow tempo. This somewhat marred the tension of the prelude in particular and the dramatic flow of the entire Third Act.

But what a marvellous performance it was in other respects! Levine has a wonderful way of blending and toning down the instruments to allow vocal parts to come into their own.

His overall orchestral sound is constantly compelling, with suspended timbres that flow into one another in a manner typical of Parsifal.

Levine gears everything to the musical and thematic situation of individual scenes, and his development testified to being well thought-out.

After having showed such a keen sense of feeling for Wagner's final opera he did not deserve the few catcalls he was given when the curtain fell.

Neither did Götz Friedrich, who was

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Film Version pales beside the real thing

When someone has a gigantic model of Wagner's skull made up and clad in 40 tons of concrete so actors can walk round it as a film set, he can only be a somewhat off-centre Wagner-lover.

All Hans-Jürgen Syberberg's past films, about Karl May, Adolf Hitler, Ludwig II of Bavaria and Winifred Wagner, have dealt with the composer's Bayreuth.

So it was hardly surprising that his latest screen venture was to deal directly with Richard Wagner.

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mainly responsible for the first night of the 1982 Bayreuth season carrying such conviction with the festival public.

That it did so was readily apparent from the tempestuous applause after Acts Two and Three.

All the soloists were given a good hand too. Peter Hofmann as Parsifal, in a performance of which concentration was the keynote, provided both the power of the heroic tenor and the vocal mobility of the lyrical.

Leonie Rysanek, with the demohic dark timbre of her soprano, achieved a striking intensity of Wagnerian word melody as Kundry in the great narration and the duet of the Second Act.

But the greatest surprise as a soloist was Simon Estes as Amfortas, with his commanding baritone volume and his pain-filled power of expression right to the ecstasy of the final scene.

Hans Sotin with his big, world-dominated bass achieved the best conceivable effect as Gurnemanz, and as for Klingsor's magic, who could make it sound blacker with his bass than Franz Mazura?

Matti Salminen gave Titurel's short but powerful appeals the fitting sense of immediacy, and a special word of praise must be given to the unusually light and pure sound of the flower girls.

Last but not least, the impact and intensity of the Bayreuth festival choir will with difficulty be exceeded by an operatic choir anywhere.

Erich Limmert

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 July 1982)

her to spend hours miming the soundtrack of Yvonne Minton's voice.

The height of unnaturalness was reached when, in the two-part role of Parsifal, a gorgeous boy (Michael Hüter) and a delicate girl (Karin Krick) were both made to mime Rainer Goldberg's heroic tenor.

Syberberg here destroys any unity of human image, identity of work and reproduction, without making the slightest gain in cinematographical perspective.

In media terms the opulent screen hybrid is a tense and rigid act of worship and fails to break new ground for Wagner.

Igor Luther, the cameraman, non-committally and without a clearly apparent intellectual concept wends his way round the operatic property box.

He does so in a basically unimaginative manner, with abrupt and at times dilettante cutting, treating his operatic subject matter as though it were an antique shop revamped as a boutique.

To make it easier to pre-comfortably over the fairy-tale picture book the music is played by an orchestra from Monte Carlo, with the conductor even singing the part of Amfortas.

It is all outmoded nostalgia set against a petrified, pompous background, a waxworks too silly to be taken seriously and too lacking in wit to be classified as a satyrical play.

In comparison with the Bayreuth festival, the workshop of Wagner's grandson Wolfgang, it stands not the slightest chance of attaining anything like the same artistic level.

As a musician Syberberg may be a virtuoso at sounding his own praises and an accomplished performer in the context of publicity.

But as a director he has signally failed to emulate Parsifal's legendary progress from a simpleton to a king of the Holy Grail when it comes to directing Wagner.

Fritz Schleicher

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 28 July 1982)

YOUTH

More and more school leavers chase fewer and fewer apprenticeships

Exactly how many apprenticeship seekers will be unemployed this year will not be known until December. By then the damage will have been done.

Projections indicate that the dwindling supply of places will leave a lot of youngsters on the street.

Nobody should be surprised when the statistics are released. Bonn Education Minister Björn Engholm has been warning everybody since the New Year. He used the word catastrophe to describe the potential situation of school leavers.

Reminders and requests by the government, by the trade unions and by organisations of one kind or another have had little or no effect.

The Federal Labour Office in Nürnberg notes in its latest interim report that between October 1981 and the end of June 1982 eight per cent fewer apprenticeships were registered with labour exchanges than in the corresponding period the year before.

Yet the number of apprenticeship-seekers was 16 per cent up on the previous year's figure, so the prospects looked anything but encouraging.

A survey by the Ifo economic research institute, Munich, comes up with even gloomier findings. Fourteen thousand companies were polled in May and June on job training prospects.

This year they plan to hire 6.4 per

cent fewer apprentices and trainees than in 1981.

Last year the number of apprenticeships on offer totalled 643,000. This year, according to the Bonn government's vocational training report, 660,000 youngsters will be trying for an apprenticeship, or over 30,000 more than a year ago.

Even if the companies do what they said they might in an emergency, and take on an additional 47,000 youngsters, there will still be tens of thousands of school-leavers unable to find an apprenticeship.

Statistics can be misleading. Supply and demand cannot be equated with a stroke of the pen. There are regional differences.

What use is an apprenticeship in Regensburg, way down south in Bavaria, to a 16-year-old Hamburg girl?

Labour mobility is splendid; no doubt, but school-leavers can hardly be expected to travel the length and breadth of the country in search of a job.

There are parts of southern Germany where more apprenticeships seem to be available than there are youngsters around to take them up.

But in the north the number of apprenticeships on offer is well behind demand.

In the Hamburg area, for instance, there were about 2,000 apprenticeships available at the end of June but more than 2,700 applicants. The gap is expected to widen.

Regional differences are what most worry officials responsible, such as Norbert Krekler of the Federal Vocational Training Institute, Berlin.

"There is no point in me appealing to industrial associations," he says. "They are only too well aware of the problem."

The only way to make headway is to take specific on-the-spot action: "Herr Meyer has to have a word with Herr Müller, who may then feel he might be able to take on another apprentice."

This last good year for school-leavers was 1980, when there were four per cent more apprenticeships than were needed.

But experts reckon that was because it was a general election year. "MPs went out of their way to arrange for extra apprenticeships in their constituencies. They could hardly engage in more effective electioneering."

This year SPD leader Willy Brandt has called on all 6,000 Social Democrats holding public office to help arrange for apprenticeships.

In mid-June the education and science working party of the SPD parliamentary party held a public hearing at which representatives of employers and unions, young people and the instructors who trained them were able to comment on the situation.

The business community is well aware of its responsibility for vocational training. A working party set up by the employers appealed last January to all companies and self-employed businessmen.

Regardless of the unfavourable economic situation they were called on to train fresh apprentices for every existing apprentice who completed his or her training.

But so far many firms seem to be hoping the others will set matters right. The Ifo survey indicates that all trades and industries plan to hire fewer apprentices this year.

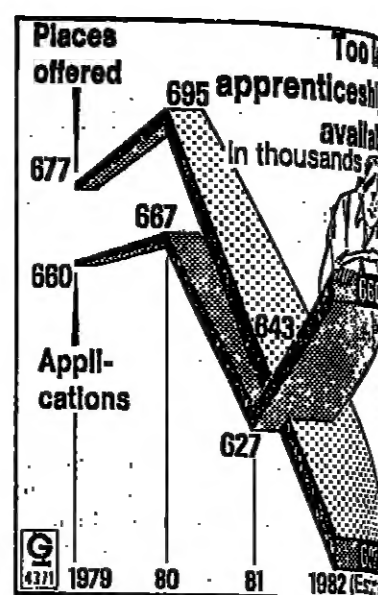
The cutback ranges from 13 per cent in retail and wholesale trade to four per cent among tradesmen such as plumbers, carpenters and electricians.

Firms with a payroll of more than 1,000 plan to take on 3.5 per cent more apprentices, while the small fry, with a payroll of up to four, are thinking in terms of an 18-per-cent growth rate.

Corporate arguments to account for this reluctance are the old story. Companies complain about the economic situation, about the increasing cost of training, about a shortage of suitable applicants and about legislative disincentives.

In 1980 the cost of vocational and in-service training totalled DM36bn, according to one economic research institute.

But that absolves no-one of responsibility. Bonn Labour Minister Heinz Westphal has just reminded all concerned of what is expected of them.



The business community, he had always regarded vocational training as its responsibility and was opposed to government regimentation.

This summer would show the existing system of job training equal to its responsibility. Either it succeeded in surmounting difficulties shortcoming by itself or it would tually prompt government intervention.

This is the last thing business want to happen. Entrepreneurs, as pundit puts it, are not going to let one, either the trade unions or the elbow in on the scene.

In the past the have successfully fended their right to run vocational training their own way.

Statistics indicate that since the 60s baby boom started school, the number of apprentices has substantially increased.

But here too statistics can be misleading. According to the trade unions, more than 200,000 young people were not to find an apprenticeship last year.

This year they expect 330,000 to be empty-handed, whereas the Bonn Education Ministry expects only 50,000 youngsters to be out in the cold by year's end.

Yet by any account between 20 and 30,000 school-leavers a year have been unable to find an apprenticeship since 1976.

This is due in part to special regional problems. A further factor is that people tend to apply for apprenticeships in a handful of overvalued trades.

In 1980 the Vocational Training Institute found that 36 per cent of school-leavers wanted to serve an apprenticeship in a mere 10 of the 446 trades in which apprenticeships are offered.

They have since grown less choosy. Last year only 31 per cent of applicants said to have found an apprenticeship in their favourite trade. Sixty per cent had to make do with their second or third choice.

Besides, next to no-one these days succeeds in finding an apprenticeship the first attempt. Most youngsters with 20, 40 or even more refusals.

So their first encounters with the world of work are frequently accompanied by disappointment and frustration.

The trade unions have no doubt to why vocational training is in dire straits. Job training must not be left to market forces, they say.

It must be made the subject of long-term planning, with the labour force given a say in how it is run, with central vocational training fund and apprenticeships being required to be centrally registered.

A 1976 Act envisaged an apprenticeship levy to be paid by employers. Nothing was done.

Nothing was done. Nothing was done. Nothing was done.

Continued on page 15

SOCIETY

Encouraging signs despite many foreigners in prisons

Neither German staff nor the prisoners accept them, and they soon get into difficulties because their fellow-countrymen try to get them involved in deals of one kind or another.

So in several jails prison officers have started to learn Turkish. They take three-month crash courses. But not all succeed.

In Schwalmstadt 14 members of staff enrolled for Turkish courses. Seven have abandoned the attempt. It was too difficult.

What prison governors and staff have to say about Turkish prisoners may come as a surprise to many Germans.

"The Turks," says Kitzner, "are the least troublesome of foreign prisoners, unlike, say, the Israelis or Yugoslavs. They are very cooperative and help each other."

"The Turks," says Schwalmstadt's Klaus Winchenbach, "are as a rule extremely hard workers. They are often more popular than German inmates with the staff because they are clean and orderly."

"The Turks," says Heldemarie Müller-Bübbick, psychologist and deputy governor at Rockenberg jail, "usually behave extremely quietly and agreeably."

They are so keen to learn. She has a feeling they are more ready to knuckle under to authority than Germans.

Josef Rüssmann, Roman Catholic chaplain at Rockenberg, feels differences may be attributed to family circumstances.

Most young Germans come from broken homes. Turkish inmates come as a rule from families that are still very much intact.

For Turks the family is very important. All governors are agreed that Turks are visited more frequently by members of their family than German prisoners.

Trouble only occurs as a rule when members of the family are insulted, such as insinuations that a Turkish prisoner's wife is going with another man.

Kitzner mentions a feature that is arguably more indicative of the difficulties of this year has dispensed even with the threat.

Family Affairs Minister Anke Fuchs and Education Minister Björn Engholm may resurrect it from time to time but no-one seriously expects the levy actually to be raised.

Politically, it is generally realised, the vocational training levy is a no-hoper. So we can but live in hope: in hope, for instance, that companies will show sufficient responsibility to provide enough apprenticeships to go round.

After all, from the mid-80s the number of school-leavers will decline drastically. The economy will then face a shortage of a commodity of which it currently has a glut: young people keen to learn a trade.

Erika Martens (Die Zeit, 30 July 1982)

Karl-Heinz Krumm (Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 July 1982)

Continued on page 14

so far come of the proposal but the unions are still strongly in favour of it.

By the terms of the Act the state would be empowered, in the event of too few apprenticeships being made available, to raise a levy of a quarter per cent of the wage bill of large companies.

Bonn has not seen fit to do so, and by all accounts everyone is happy the idea has been quietly shelved. The cash that could have been raised in this way would have been nowhere near enough to finance the number of apprenticeships needed.

In retrospect the mere threat seems to have been useful and effective. But a new Act that came into force at the beginning of this year has dispensed even with the threat.

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Erika Martens (Die Zeit, 30 July 1982)

Karl-Heinz Krumm (Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 July 1982)



Foreigners behind bars: what does the future hold?

(Photo: Glaser)

ties various generations encounter with integration.

Older Turkish prisoners, he says, frequently try to beat their wives or children because they have been told the children are going out with Germans or the wife has, say, been out to a German cinema.

Clashes with other prisoners, including Germans, are infrequent. There are said to be very few signs of xenophobia.

Frau Müller-Bübbick says the Turks do, however, tend to be the underdogs at German goals, while Fr Rüssmann refers to a mutual, tacit demarcation.

There are, of course, occasional complaints by German prisoners about the weird music the Turks play at full volume. Germans can also be upset when Turkish prisoners get jobs as trustees.

But open conflict and open hostilities have yet to come to light anywhere. "Jail," says Herr Winchenbach, "is a great leveller."

There is prejudice not far beneath the surface among all concerned. Fr Rüssmann warns. He gives trainee warders instruction and they ask him why he allows young Turks to attend his services.

The Turks themselves do not complain of xenophobia in prison. "We are treated the same as anyone else," says a prisoner who has lived in Germany for 20 years and is serving a long sentence for a narcotics offence.

Among prisoners the attitude toward foreigners is much the same as it is outside. "It depends how old they are." But trouble only arises with day-to-day details.

At Rockenberg Fr Rüssmann occasionally holds Turkish festivities. At Butzbach sport is the greatest help with integration.

Yet the Turks themselves seldom complain, and when they do it is only in moderation. Now and then there are complaints about the Mohammedan food (pork-free).

There are also complaints about prisoners being overcrowded or complaints about individual members of staff. "But by and large we have no cause to complain," one Turkish prisoner says.

So despite the many shortcomings of day-to-day prison routine, most Turkish prisoners accept their treatment. What upsets them is something entirely different, the fear of what will happen when they are released.

Erika Martens (Die Zeit, 30 July 1982)

Karl-Heinz Krumm (Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 July 1982)

Teaching service

A Turkish language course for Turks at Rockenberg was quickly scrapped when the prison authorities discovered that the teacher was supplying students with right-wing extremist newspapers.

This, say the Rockenberg psychologists and the chaplain, is a dilemma. Vetting is difficult because of the language problem.

So despite many efforts to help the Turks in German prisons the prospects look none too good. At Schwalmstadt one instructor runs a leisure group for about 40 once a week.

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